

VILLAGE OF BEAR LAKE COUNCIL
Bear Lake Village Hall
12016 Russell Street
Bear Lake, MI 49614
June 18, 2026
To Follow Special Meeting
UNAPPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Bear Lake Council was called to order by President Shelly Lynnes at the Village Hall at 7:11 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL:

President: Shelly Lynnes **Council:** Heather DeRidder, Wanda Evans, Janene Gee, Rodney Gee, Daniel Heiss

Treasurer: Tracy Gary **Clerk:** Becky Cline **Staff:** Jake Cline

GUESTS: **In Person:** Pam Evans, Arvin Jay Krause
 Phone: John Virga

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Heiss/ DeRidder motioned to adopt the agenda with changes.

Ayes: DeRidder, Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS (3 minute maximum per person): None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- New Staff Member Joining the Planning Department
Grace Sytsema will be joining the Manistee County Planning Department as a Planner I/ Zoning Administrator and will assist in providing services to the Village.

MANISTEE COUNTY LIBRARY- Pamela Evans

Pamela Evans is on the Manistee County Library Board. She thanked the Village for their support of the library. She gave an update on the many resources that the library offers to the public.

Shelly said that she gets a lot of questions about fax services in the area. Pamela will confirm, but she believes that faxing services are available at the Bear Lake branch.

There is no increase, but the Manistee County Library is asking for a millage renewal during the August election.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

- 05/28/26 VC Monthly Meeting
J. Gee/ Heiss motioned to approve the meeting minutes from May 28, 2026.
Ayes: Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** DeRidder **Absent:** None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Sequoyah Update- Tracy- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Zoning/Blight Service Contract for 2026-2029
Shelly expressed that the Manistee County Planning Department's services help the Village out tremendously. There are currently 5 open blight complaints. There were complaints sent out two days ago and Mike has already been out to view the properties. Anyone who has a complaint needs to contact Shelly.

The Manistee County Planning Department services are budgeted for. There has been a lot of positive feedback since the Manistee County Planning Department has been handling the zoning and blight for the Village.

There is a concern for the blighted buildings downtown. The Village could put liens on the buildings, but the Village would be responsible for demolishing or repairing.

Council wants to look at the fee schedule for permits and fees in July.

Evans/ Heiss motioned to renew the Zoning Contract for 2026-2029 with the Manistee County Planning Department.

Ayes: DeRidder, Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None

- STR Administration Contract for 2026-2029

J. Gee/ Heiss motioned to renew the STR Administration Contract for 2026-2029 with the Manistee County Planning Department.

Ayes: DeRidder, Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None

- STR Amendments

The council can make changes regarding STRs at any time. The changes would not go into effect until January 1, 2027.

Council will review and discuss possible changes in July.

- PROTEC Membership

Heiss/ R. Gee motioned to renew the annual PROTEC Membership.

Ayes: DeRidder, Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None

REPORTS:

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Jake Cline

DPW Manager's Report for June 2026 is attached.

Jake received some recommendations from EGLE. He will bring them to the council for consideration when he receives the official report.

Heather inquired why there are orange cones in two spots in the Village. They are marking collapsed storm drains.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tracy Gary

Fund Balances and Equipment Rental Report is attached.

Tracy reported that the overdue water bills are on the tax bills.

Tracy said there was a \$2,500.00 check for the park that bounced. Council discussed. The camper will need to pay by cashiers check or cash plus a fee of \$50.00 for the check bouncing. Their total balance must be paid within 5 business days.

A check in the amount of \$152.88 from Tammie Puite was made out to the Village for future maintenance on the irrigation system down by the lake. This was leftover donation money from the project.

BILLS TO BE PAID: Becky Cline

J. Gee/ DeRidder motioned to approve the June Clerk's Report and to pay the monthly general bills before they are late.

Ayes: DeRidder, Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

PARK: Janene Gee & Heather DeRidder

Jay and the council discussed the issue with the bounced check. He will let Shelly know if he runs into any problems.

Jake will be picking up the last glider from Legacy. The hope is to put it in before Bear Lake Days.

Janene questioned if there is enough money in the budget to get new beach sand. Jake will have to get a quote.

- Marina-Discussed during the June 18 Special Meeting.

WATER: Rodney Gee & Wanda Evans

None

STREETS, TREES, SIGNS, LIGHTS, SIDEWALKS, BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT: Daniel Heiss & Heather DeRidder

- Safe Routes to School
Onekama is doing the Safe Routes to School grant to get their own sidewalks redone. Janene is going to their meeting next week and exploring this as an option for the Village.
There are three different application periods for the Safe Routes to School grant. The process takes six to nine months start to finish. It is possible to be granted up to \$300,000.00. This would include signs, paint on the roads, etc.
The Village would need to have an engineering report for the sidewalk replacement and repair cost. Jake will check if the Village has an estimate from Fleis & Vandenbrink.
This grant can work in conjunction with the Manistee County Community Foundation.
Janene said it is very reliant on the support of the school, but she is working to connect with people there.
There is a concern for the trees and roots interfering with the sidewalks.
- MDOT
MDOT will be starting road work on July 13 from Russell to Smith St.
Shelly said she talked with Jessica from MDOT and she will be emailing Shelly a flyer for what the project will look like. The project is not expected to be completed until October. We will be able to put the flyer on the website and hand out. Possible locations include the Promoters tent at Bear Lake Days, gas stations, and other local businesses.
- New Business
Java Lodge is working with the Land Bank. It will be a market and coffee shop. There will be a drive thru at the back of the building.

Wanda has a neighbor that has a question about the procedure for removing a tree that is on Village property. Her neighbor needs to contact Jake, and with prior approval, the neighbor can hire a licensed contractor at his own expense to have the tree removed.

LIBRARY BOARD:

Chelsea from Pleasanton Township and Janene met and discussed if the Village would be interested in selling the library property to the Manistee County Library. In 2001 it was donated under the Village of Bear Lake's name for \$100.00. In 2009, another lot was purchased for \$6,200.00. The Library Board no longer wants responsibility and there are not enough volunteers. The roof on the library has to be taken care of this year, but the board has the money. The council discussed the pros and cons of selling. A suggestion was made by a council member for the Village to have the right of first refusal in the agreement if the Manistee County Library ever sold the property in the future.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT: Janene Gee & Wanda Evans

- Bear Lake Area Nature, Art & Historical Trail
Logs need to be moved and the sign installed at the trail head.
- Pocket Park
Janene still needs keys for the display case. She will take a couple different keys from the office to try. The library will install the sound garden before Bear Lake Days.
- Wish List for Promoters
Promoters are working on getting a picnic table for Cosier Park.

- Community Survey
Janene passed around the current survey results.
- BP Beach
The Planning Commission discussed making a sign for BP Beach. The council decided to name it Bear Lake Beach.
- Cosier Park
Janene wants to get a deck box for storage and paint a 4 Square game court for kids.

EVENT UPDATE:

Community Clean Up Day will be in the fall.

BEAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Bill Beaver-None

PLANNING COMMISSION: John Virga

- Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission- Update
Park and Rec Update: if there is anything that the public wants, John said to talk to Janene so she can add it to the update before July 1st.
John was updated that the BP Beach is going to be named Bear Lake Beach.
They have been getting good survey results.
There are three commercial properties with no confirmed store fronts moving forward. Jim Reed is open to putting an idea box on his storefronts. He will secure his building with OSB or plywood and the idea box can be installed on that. John said he found lock boxes for \$25/ each that could be used for the idea boxes and then reused for other uses in the future. He asked to be reimbursed after the purchase of three.
- Blight/ Zoning- Shelly
Shelly said to reach out to her if anyone ever has questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY VILLAGE COUNCIL TOPIC (3 minute maximum per person): None

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Heather mentioned that the flag needs to be replaced at Bear Lake Beach. Jake replaced it this spring but will check it. The life jackets and buoys need to be put out as well.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

R. Gee/ DeRidder motioned to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Ayes: DeRidder, Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None

Next Village Council Regular monthly meeting is July 16, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Cline
Clerk, Village of Bear Lake

DPW Manager's Report June 2026

- Wells Daily
- Samples taken June 3rd
- MOR submitted June 8th
- Had Sanitary Survey with EGLE June 10th
- CCR submitted and posted June 18, 2026
- Water turn ons
- Put solar panel on camera at tower
- Clean park bathrooms and change garbages 3x per week
- Mow/weed whip US 31 corridor and park weekly
- Fixed another sink hole at boat launch
- Street repairs
 - Picked up bathroom supplies for park
 - Replaced wheel barrow tire
 - Put out fish freezer behind pavilion
 - Cleared fallen limb on Virginia St.
 - Bought new asphalt blade for concrete saw
 - Put up pickle ball nets

Fund Balances

Date	Account	Total
6/18/2026	General Fund - Checking	\$16,677.83
	General Fund - Savings	\$40,001.32
	Water Receiving - Savings	\$58,687.85
	Park - Checking	\$53,744.82
	Park - Savings	\$69,995.06
	Major - Checking	\$4,628.38
	Major - Savings	\$87,832.02
	Local - Checking	\$3,421.97
	Local - Savings	\$3,733.50
	Equipment - Checking	\$54,455.18
	Equipment - Savings	\$12,146.88

FUND	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5/3/2026	5/10/2026	5/17/2026	5/24/2026	5/31/2026	TOTALS
Water (2743)	591-000-943	\$276.02	\$225.34	\$339.96	\$124.56	\$179.71	\$1,145.59
Park (2735)	531-463-943	\$41.52	\$142.30	\$41.52	\$373.35	\$175.50	\$774.19
Major (2719)	203-463-943	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27.68	\$13.84	\$105.24	\$146.76
Minor (2727)	202-463-943	\$0.00	\$146.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105.24	\$251.44
General		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63.35	\$0.00	\$13.84	\$77.19
	TOTALS	\$317.54	\$513.84	\$472.51	\$511.75	\$579.53	\$2,395.17

CLERK REPORT**Bills to Be Paid: JUNE 2026**

Fund	Payee	Amount	Account #	Notes
General			101-	
	Consumers	\$162.53		7780 Lake St. BLDG MUN
	Consumers	32.93		7576 Lake St.
	Consumers	225.59		12016 Russell St.
	Consumers	80.94		7780 Lake St. L4 Light Bldg Mun
	Consumers	823.09		49614 LED Light Rd.
	Consumers	171.24		Street Light(s)
	Dornbos Sign, Inc.	108.75		Sign for the Bear Lake Area Nature, Art & Historical Trail
	Michigan Municipal League	611.00		MML Full Member Dues, Legal Defense Fund Member Dues
	Brightspeed	158.38		Phone and Internet
	Inacomp	24.00		May Cloud Backup
	Intuit	66.78		Intuit QB Payroll Monthly Per Employee Fee Usage Fee
	USPS	10.48		Certified Mail
	Saddle Up Gas & Grocery	543.47		May Fuel
	Superior Energy Company LLC	314.51		Natural Gas 12016 Russell St.
	USDA Rural Development	3,875.99		Community Facility Loan (will be paid from multiple accounts)
	Harbor Freight	29.67		Replacement Cart Tire & Wheel
	Sam's Club	60.00		Membership Renewal
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	2.00		Misc Hardware
	Grand Rental Station	139.00		14" Varicut s 85 Blade
	Manistee News Advocate	398.25		Resolution 2026-01 Publishing
	Sub-Total	\$7,838.60		
Water			591-	
	Spectrum Business	\$60.00		DPW iPad
	Michigan Rural Water Association	425.00		Annual Dues
	Esri	700.00		ArcGIS Online Creator User Type Annual Subscription
	Consumers	1,092.47		7791 Cody St.
	Sequoyah Software and Consulting	45.00		Cloud Virtual PC
	Superior Energy Company LLC	185.86		Natural Gas 7791 Cody St.
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	35.98		Batteries
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	1.19		Misc Hardware
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	61.48		U-Posts, Clamps, Couples, Misc Hardware
	Sub-Total	\$2,606.98		

Park			531-	
	Spectrum Business	\$170.99		Internet and Voice
	Campspot	228.00		Marketplace Booking, Monthly Fee (Minus Cancellation Credit)
	When Nature Calls LLC	188.00		May Porta Potty
	Consumers	992.29		7727 Park St.
	Republic Services	160.00		Lock Replacement, Pickup Service 05/01-05/31
	Sam's Club	91.14		Trash Bags, Bath Tissue, Shop Towels
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	15.39		Extension Cord, Misc Hardware
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	1.60		Couple
	Sub-Total	\$1,847.41		
Major			463-782	
	Ron Brown & Sons	\$94.86		Hot Mix Asphalt
	Sub-Total	\$94.86		
Minor			202-	
	Ron Brown & Sons	\$284.58		Hot Mix Asphalt
	Sub-Total	\$284.58		
Equip- ment			649-	
	Absolute Auto Repair & Tire	\$810.81		Transmission Service on GMC Sierra
	Sub-Total	\$810.81		
TOTAL BILLS TO BE PAID		\$13,483.24		